

Message Text

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ORIGIN PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 CA-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 HEW-06 SCS-06 MED-05 COME-00
/081 R

DRAFTED BY PT/FC:DELEACH:LIM
APPROVED BY PT/F:FGRANDO
PDC/OFDA:CRHOLMES
PDC/OFDA:SWGUTH
PDC/OFDA:CASIEGEL
CA:LWAUCHOPE

-----090916 240211Z /73

R 232025Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 214459

PASSPORT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL

SUBJECT: SMALLPOX VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR INTER-
NATIONAL TRAVEL

1. THIS ADVISORY RECEIVED FROM U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE, CDC, ATLANTA, GEORGIA:
QUOTE IN REPLYING ADDRESS THE CDC
REFER TO QD-EPI
ADVISORY MEMORANDUM NO. 48 DATED AUGUST 14, 1978
SUBJECT: SMALLPOX VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
THE LAST REPORTED CASE OF SMALLPOX OCCURRED IN MERKA,
SOMALIA, ON OCTOBER 26, 1977. ALTHOUGH TRANSMISSION
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APPARENTLY HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED, ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL 2 YEARS HAVE ELAPSED AND THE LAST ENDEMIC
AREA IS CONFIRMED AS SMALLPOX-FREE. INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE
IS UNDERWAY ALSO IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IF NO MORE
CASES OF SMALLPOX ARE DETECTED, COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT
BEEN CERTIFIED AS BEING FREE OF SMALLPOX WILL BE ELIGIBLE
FOR SMALLPOX-FREE CERTIFICATION BY AN INTERNATIONAL

COMMISSION ON SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN OCTOBER 1979.

WITH THE DEMISE OF SMALLPOX, INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS DO NOT HAVE BIOLOGICAL REASONS FOR BEING VACCINATED. SMALLPOX

VACCINATION, AS WITH OTHER MEDICAL PROCEDURES, HAS A DEFINITE RISK OF SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING DEATH. THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS, ARTICLE 86(7) STATE QUOTE IF A VACCINATOR IS OF THE OPINION THAT VACCINATION IS CONTRAINDICATED ON MEDICAL GROUNDS HE SHALL PROVIDE THE PERSON WITH REASONS, WRITTEN IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH, UNDERLYING THAT OPINION, WHICH HEALTH AUTHORITIES SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. UNQUOTE.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION IS INDICATED ONLY FOR TRAVELERS TO COUNTRIES WHICH REQUIRE VACCINATION AS A CONDITION FOR ENTRY (PRIMARILY THOSE IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA), AND FOR THE FEW LABORATORY WORKERS WHO ARE LIKELY TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE VARIOLA VIRUS.

SINCE OCTOBER 1971, THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUIRED A VALID INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX ONLY IF WITHIN THE 14 DAYS PRECEDING ARRIVAL THE TRAVELER HAD BEEN IN A COUNTRY CURRENTLY REPORTING SMALLPOX. EFFECTIVE AUGUST 14, 1978, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT REQUIRE SMALLPOX VACCINATION FOR ANY ARRIVING INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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TRAVELER AND PROOF OF VACCINATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED.

THE UNITED STATES ELIMINATED ANY REQUIREMENT FOR CHOLERA VACCINATION ON DECEMBER 18, 1970, AND ANY REQUIREMENT FOR YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION ON NOVEMBER 8, 1972. WITH THE ELIMINATION OF THE SMALLPOX VACCINATION REQUIREMENT, NO VACCINATIONS NOW ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES FROM ANY COUNTRY.

TRAVELERS SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT SOME COUNTRIES DO REQUIRE CERTAIN VACCINATIONS, INCLUDING SMALLPOX, AS A CONDITION FOR ENTRY AND THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN PLANNING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION QUOTE HEALTH INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, UNQUOTE KEPT UP-TO-DATE AS CHANGES ARE REPORTED IN THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT AND THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF QUOTE COUNTRIES WITH AREAS INFECTED WITH QUARANTINABLE DISEASES, UNQUOTE PROVIDES A CURRENT REFERENCE.

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, TRAVEL AGENCIES, AIRLINES, AND SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE

INFORMATION IN THIS ADVISORY MEMORANDUM TO PROSPECTIVE
TRAVELERS.

ADVISORY MEMORANDA NUMBERS 2, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24,
26, 27, AND 29 ARE HEREBY SUPERSEDED.

SIGNED BY JOSEPH F. GIORDANO, DIRECTOR, QUARANTINE DIVISION,
BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALLPOX, IMMUNIZATION, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE214459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DELEACH:LIM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780345-1112
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780831/aaaaazyp.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30b7305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PPTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1644193
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMALLPOX VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR INTER- NATIONAL TRAVEL
TAGS: SWEL, XX
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30b7305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014